THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Delhi Milk Scheme is conducting surprise inspections and other checks to prevent any blackmarketing of its milk. Such inspections and raids have been conducted in R.K. Puram also.

(c) and (d) No milk booth in the R.K. Puram area has been unauthorised rented out.

Rise in freight charges of essential commodities

3998. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the freight charges for essential commodities, despite Government's assurance that these commodities have been exempted from the freight charges;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the freight charges on such commodities;

(c) the reasons for raising the freight charges; and

(d) its likely impact on the overall rise in the cost of the essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The following essential commodities have been exempted from the increase of 10 percent in freight rates during the current year: (i) Grains & Pulses for public distribution system, (ii) Salt for human consumption, (iii) Edible oils, (iv) Hydrogenated oils, (v) Vegetable oil refined, (vi) Sugar (vii) Fruits & Vegetables, (viii) Gur, Shakhar & Jaggery, (ix) Chemical manures, (x) Organic manure, (xi) Fodder other than oil cakes, (xii) Oil seeds, (xiii) Kerosene, (xiv) LPG and (xv) Livestock.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quality of the physical and academic infrastructure

3999. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that the quality of the physical and academic infrastructure of higher education is important for its teaching, research and service functions as well as for the institutional culture; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to enhance the quality of the physical and academic infrastructure, in our campuses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to all eligible universities and colleges for recruitment of teaching staff, purchase of books, journals and equipment, improvement of faculty, construction of buildings and hostels etc. Financial assistance is also provided for improvement of teaching and research under special assistance programmes.